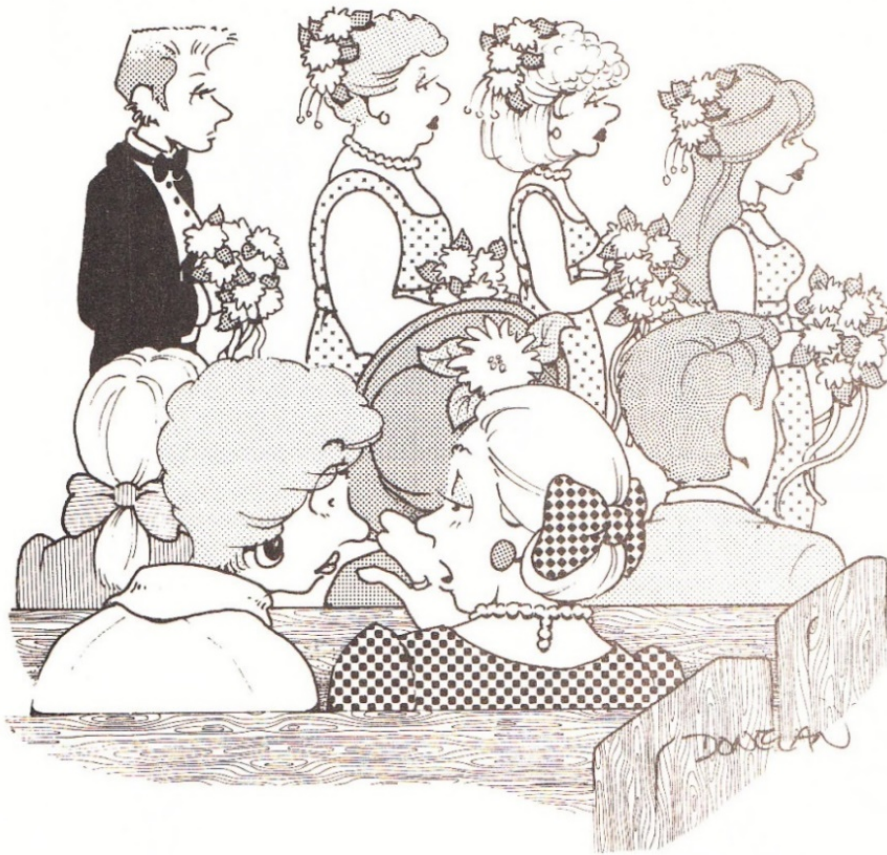


LGBTQ STUDIES

WS 304, Section 001, Fall 2018
Michigan State University
Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 to 9:50 a.m.
A224 Wells Hall



THAT'S COUSIN MARIE. WE THINK
SHE'S...WELL, YOU KNOW...THAT WAY.

LGBTQ STUDIES

Dr. Tim Retzloff <retzloff@msu.edu>

(preferred pronouns *he, him, his*)

Office Hours: Wednesday, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m., and by appointment
206 International Center

Welcome!

In this course we will explore topics, questions, and approaches that characterize the rapidly growing field of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer studies and its relationship to the lives of LGBTQ people and to society more broadly, including a global perspective. We will use interdisciplinary approaches that incorporate race, class, gender, and space as analytical categories alongside sexuality, we will look at the tools LGBTQ studies offer for understanding power and culture.

Goals

- 1) **Learn a lot**
- 2) **Have a blast**
- 3) **Get enthused about LGBTQ life, culture, and activism**
- 4) **Leave this class excited to engage with the LGBTQ studies in multiple ways**

After taking this class, students will...

- learn the meaning, significance, and history of key terms
- acquire a familiarity with the history of social movements involving sexuality and gender
- learn to analyze and contextualize representations of LGBTQ people in the media, popular culture, and politics
- be able to define key concepts in the study of sexuality, including heteronormativity and homonormativity, and learn to use them to critically analyze contemporary society
- grasp current concerns of LGBTQ people in the U.S. and around the globe, including continuing debates around same-sex marriage, hate crimes, and transgender inclusion

Texts

- George Chauncey, *Why Marriage?: The History Shaping Today's Debate Over Gay Equality* (Basic Books, 2005) ISBN 978-0465009589 [Also an MSU Libraries Electronic Resource]
- David Wojnarowicz, *7 Miles a Second* (Fantagraphics Books, 2013) ISBN 978-1606996140
- *Queer Africa: New and Collected Fiction* (Modjaji Books, 2013) ISBN 978-1920590338
- Meg-John Barker, *Queer: A Graphic History* (Icon Books, 2016) ISBN 978-1785780714
- Additional readings, viewings, and listenings as assigned

Be sure to purchase the correct edition!

If you choose to do the Film Review Response Paper, you will also need to borrow, rent, or stream one LGBTQ-themed film for that assignment, due November 8th.

Special Policies

- This is a screen-free class. No laptops, phones, tablets, etc. Occasional exceptions, as noted.
- Bring hard copies of all assigned readings and any other relevant materials to every class.
- Unless otherwise noted, all projects should be posted to individual blogs before class and/or are due in hard copy at the beginning of class; the mini posts are due via your website only.

Grades

Grade	Percentage	4-point scale	Grade	Percentage	4-point scale
A+	98-100%	4.0	C	73-76%	2.0
A	93-97%	4.0	C-/D+	67-72%	1.5
A-/B+	87-92%	3.5	D	63-66%	1.0
B	83-86%	3.0	D-	60-62%	0.5
B-/C+	77-82%	2.5	F	Below 60%	0

Class Component	Percentage of grade
Participation	15% [75 pts]
Quizzes	5% [5 pts each = 25 pts]
Team Media Presentation	10% [50 pts]
Response Papers (2 total)	20% [50 pts each = 100 pts]
Research Paper	20% [100 pts]
Mini Exams (3 total)	30% [50 pts each = 150 pts]
Total	100% [500 pts]

Assignments & Mini Exams

Participation

Because readings and supplementary visual and audio media will make up the backbone of our conversations, you are expected to come to each class prepared to explore, defend, and critique them. Your participation grade will be based on regular participation and engagement in classroom discussions, and any in-class writing assignments.

Team Media Presentation

In teams of 2 or 3, students will present to the class one short news report (published in print or posted online within the last three months), analyzing both the substantive news conveyed in the report and also the way in which the report represents sexuality, gender, and/or LGBTQ identities. You will be assigned to a Team and expected to present on the date indicated in the syllabus. Presentations should run about 20 minutes total, 12 minutes to 15 minutes for initial sharing and 5 to 8 minutes allowed for class discussion and Q&A.

Response Papers

You will do 2 response papers chosen from the following 4 options and due on the dates indicated. More detailed instructions for each option will be posted to D2L.

Option A – Queer History Report: You will find and read a scholarly article about some aspect of LGBTQ history and write a 3- to 4-page assessment. Due September 18th.

Option B – *7 Miles a Second* Analysis: You will write a 3- to 4-page analysis of the David Wojnarowicz comic book *7 Miles a Second*. Due September 25th.

Option C – Film Review: You will select and view a film with significant LGBTQ content (mainstream or queer) and write a 3- to 4-page review. Due October 30th.

Option D – Queer Space Field Observation: You will visit a location identified as an LGBTQ place and write a 3- to 4-page account of your observations. Due November 20th.

Mini Exams

Rather than a midterm and a final, we will have three short (½-hour) exams over the course of the semester. Each mini-exam will cover course material from the thematic units covered

immediately prior to that exam and will consist of either identifications or a single essay question. All students must bring an exam book to class to write the examinations.

Research Paper

Each student will select a topic in LGBTQ studies for an individual 8- to 10-page research paper based on primary or scholarly secondary sources. A one- to two-sentence statement of your topic is due October 4th. A one-page proposal for your paper is due October 18th. The paper itself is due the last day of class, December 6th. More detailed guidelines will be distributed in class and posted to D2L.

Extra Credit

You have the opportunity to earn extra credit by attending a onetime outside event or exhibition and writing a short (1- to 2-page) response. Possible options for this extra credit include events posted through the LBGT Resource Center (<http://lbgtrc.msu.edu/events-calendar>), as well as events and exhibits held away from East Lansing.

	Length	Due Date
Team Media Presentation		Varies
Response Papers		
Option A: Queer History Report	750-1,000 words	September 18th
Option B: 7 Miles a Second Analysis	750-1,000 words	September 25th
Option C: Film Review	750-1,000 words	October 30th
Option D: Queer Space Field Observation	750-1,000 words	November 20th
Mini Exams		
Mini Exam 1 (IDs)		October 2nd
Mini Exam 2 (Essay)		November 13th
Mini Exam 3 (IDs)		December 11th
Research Paper Topic	50-100 words	October 4th
Research Paper Proposal	200-250 words	October 18th
Research Paper	2,000-2,500 words	December 6th

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required in every class this semester. That’s because in a seminar like this, it’s not only you who misses out when you’re not there: the class itself changes. **The experience of everyone is richest when everyone is present, everyone is prepared, and everyone participates.** If you attend every class, you’ll get Perfect Attendance Extra Credit, with two points *added* to your final average. However, for every class you miss after the first two, two points will be *subtracted* from your final average.

Special Needs

Students who require special assistance with any aspect of this course are encouraged to see me as early in the semester as possible to make necessary accommodations.

Quizzes

Over the semester I will give six quizzes, a mix of reading and preparation quizzes. Quizzes will not be announced in advance. For the preparation quizzes, you get a full 5 points if you have a hard copy of all assigned readings with you, and a 0 if you don't. Likewise, the reading quizzes will consist of one or two questions that should be easy if you did the reading and impossible if you didn't. You cannot make up a quiz, but at the end of the semester I will drop your lowest grade. If you get 5 points on all six of the quizzes, then you will get an extra 5 points on your final average.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any use of someone else's ideas or words without proper acknowledgment of credit, will result in serious penalties up to and including a failing course grade. All students should be familiar with the university's Policies, Regulations and Ordinances Regarding Academic Honesty and Integrity (<https://www.msu.edu/~ombud/academic-integrity/index.html>).

A word about email

Email calls for a different writing style than text messages, especially when you're writing to a professor or professional contact. Here are a few general guidelines: You should start by addressing the person you're writing by name. Use a greeting, just like you would in real life: "Hello Dr. Retzloff," "Hi Prof. Retzloff," "Dear Professor Retzloff"—anything in that ballpark is great. If you write simply "Dear Professor" don't be surprised by a response of "Dear Student."

When you're signing off (and this is even more important), you must say who you are. Your name is all it takes, and if you sign off with "Thank you," or "Sincerely," or something like that, even better. If you're asking a question (and especially if you're asking a favor), please remember to use a question mark. Use words like "please" and "thank you" when appropriate. In general, remember your manners on email just as you would in person.

WEEK 1

Thursday, August 30th: BASICS I – Class Introductions

Introductions. Syllabus.

Watch: *Sexuality & Gender 101* [8 minutes]

Watch: *Transgender Basics* [20 minutes]

WEEK 2

Tuesday, September 4th: BASICS II – L, G, B, T, & Q

Discuss: Team Media Presentations

Activity: Analyze *City Pulse* article

Prep: Assign teams for media presentations

Mini Lecture: Nature vs. Nurture

Discuss: Rubin, *Gayly Speaking*

Read prior to class: Gayle Rubin, “Thinking Sex” excerpt
Listen to prior to class: *Gayly Speaking*, September 6, 1973

Thursday, September 6th

NO CLASS!

Watch: *Before Stonewall*

WEEK 3

Tuesday, September 11th: HISTORIES I – Earlier Paradigms

Presentation: Team 1 Media Presentation

Discuss: Response Paper Option A

Mini Lecture: Colonial Sodomy and Passing Women

Discuss: *Before Stonewall*, Halperin, D’Emilio

Read prior to class: David Halperin, “Sex Before Sexuality”
John D’Emilio, “Capitalism and Gay Identity”

Thursday, September 13th: HISTORIES II – Before Stonewall

Presentation: Team 2 Media Presentation

Update: Response Paper Option A

Mini Lecture: Christine Jorgensen

Discuss: Lorde

Read prior to class: Audre Lorde, *Zami. A New Spelling of My Name* selections

WEEK 4

Tuesday, September 18th: HISTORIES III – Stonewall, Riot and Myth

Mini Lecture: Stonewall

Discuss: Smith, “Boycott,” Abramovitch

DUE: Response Paper Option A – Queer History Report

Read prior to class: Howard Smith, “Full Moon Over Stonewall”

“Boycott 2015 ‘Stonewall’ Movie”

Seth Abramovitch, “Roland Emmerich Responds”

Thursday, September 20th: HISTORIES IV – After Stonewall

Discuss: Response Paper Option B

Presentation: Team 3 Media Presentation

Mini Lecture: Gay Liberation and Beyond

Discuss: Wittman, Radicalesbians, Combahee River Collective Statement, Highlyman, Milk

Read prior to class: Carl Wittman, “A Gay Manifesto”

Radicalesbians, “The Woman Identified Woman”

Combahee River Collective Statement

Liz Highlyman, “Sylvia Rivera: A Woman Before Her Time”

Harvey Milk, “Gay Freedom Day Speech”

WEEK 5

Tuesday, September 25th: AIDS

Discuss: Mini Exam 1

Mini Lecture: AIDS

DUE: Response Paper Option B – 7 Miles a Second Analysis

Read prior to class: David Wojnarowicz, *7 Miles a Second*

Thursday, September 27th: MARRIAGE

Update: Mini Exam 1

Presentation: Team 4 Media Presentation

Discuss: Research Paper topic

Practice: IDs exam answer

Mini Lecture: Marriage

Discuss: Chauncey

Jigsaw Reading Assignment

Everyone reads prior to class: George Chauncey, *Why Marriage?*, pages 59-86

Partner A reads prior to class: George Chauncey, *Why Marriage?*, pages 87-111

Partner B reads prior to class: George Chauncey, *Why Marriage?*, pages 111-136

WEEK 6

Tuesday, October 2nd: POLITICS I - Equality

MINI EXAM 1

Mini Lecture: Equality & Assimilation

Explore prior to class: Human Rights Campaign, National LGBT Task Force,
and Equality Michigan websites

Thursday, October 4th: POLITICS II – Critiques of Homonormativity

Mini Lecture: Radical Activism

Discuss: Duggan, Thrasher, Marq M, “Trans and Queer Latinx...”

DUE: Research Paper Topic

Read prior to class: Lisa Duggan, “The New Homonormativity”

Stephen Thrasher, “Does ‘Gay Inc.’ Believe in Free Speech?”

Marq M., “De-Normalizing Heteros”

Watch prior to class: “Trans and Queer Latinx Respond to Pulse Orlando Shooting”

WEEK 7

Tuesday, October 9th: Research Skills

CLASS MEETS AT MAIN LIBRARY

Prep: Assign readings for next class

Thursday, October 11th: POLITICS III – Intersectionalities

Presentation: Team 5 Media Presentation

Activity: Privilege chart

Read prior to class as assigned: Dorothy Allison, “Survival Is the Least of My Desires”
Eli Clare, “Stones in My Pockets, Stones in My Heart”
Andrew Feraios, “If Only I Were Cute”
Richard Fung, “Looking for My Penis”
Audre Lorde, “Age, Race, Class, and Sex”
Dwight McBride, “Why I Hate Abercrombie & Fitch”
Ron Jackson Suresha, “Coming to Terms”
Carla Trujillo, “Chicana Lesbians”

WEEK 8

Tuesday, October 16th: POLITICS IV – Queer Diversities

Mini Lecture: Queer Diversities

Discuss: Hollibaugh, Smith et al, Stryker, Chu, Gartrell

Read prior to class: Amber Hollibaugh, “Queers without Money”
Charles Anthony Smith, Shawn Schulenberg, & Eric Baldwin,
“The ‘B’ Isn’t Silent”
Susan Stryker, “Why the T In LGBT Is Here to Stay”
Erica Chu, “Radical Identity Politics:”
Nanette K. Gartrell, “If This Is Tuesday, It Must Be Dee...”

Thursday, October 18th: POLITICS V – Anti-Gay Politics

Presentation: Team 6 Media Presentation

Mini Lecture: The Anti-Gay Movement

DUE: Research Paper Proposal

WEEK 9

Tuesday, October 23rd: Global LGBTQ Activism

Watch: *Dangerous Living* [60 minutes]

Explore prior to class: Go Right Action International website

Thursday, October 25th: POPULAR CULTURE I – Television

Mini Lecture: Queers on TV

Presentation: Team 7 Media Presentation

Watch and take notes prior to class: Any episode of NBC’s *Will and Grace*

WEEK 10

Tuesday, October 30th: POPULAR CULTURE II - Cinema

Presentation: Team 8 Media Presentation

Mini Lecture: Lavender on Screen

DUE: Response Paper Option C – Film Review

Thursday, November 1st: QUEER CULTURES – Women’s Music

Discuss: Mini Exam 2

Mini Lecture: Women’s Music

Discuss: Pepper, Wilchins, Dievendorf, Morris

Read prior to class: Rachel Pepper, “Into the Woods”
Riki Anne Wilchins, “The Menace in Michigan”
Emily Dievendorf, “Why Trans Exclusion at Michfest Must End”
and comments
Bonnie Morris, “The Hijacking of Lesbian History”

WEEK 11

Tuesday, November 6th: QUEER CULTURES I – Ballroom Culture

Watch: *Paris Is Burning* [78 minutes]

Read prior to class: Marlon Bailey, “Engendering Space”

Thursday, November 8th: QUEER CULTURES – Camp, Leather, Hooking Up

Presentation: Team 9 Media Presentation

Mini Lecture: Camp, Leather, and Muscle

Update: Mini Exam 2

Discuss: Freeman, Rubin

Read prior to class: Susan Sontag, “Notes on Camp”
Cody Freeman, “Hook-Up Apps Are Destroying Gay Youth Culture”
Gayle S. Rubin, “The Catacombs”

WEEK 12

Tuesday, November 13th: RELIGION

MINI EXAM 2

Discuss: Response Paper Option D

Read prior to class: Larry Gross and James D. Woods, "Inventing Sin"
Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, "Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons"

Thursday, November 15th: QUEER THEORY

Discuss: Barker

Read prior to class: Meg-John Barker, *Queer: A Graphic History*

WEEK 13

Tuesday, November 20th: SPACES I – Queer Africa

Presentation: Team 10 Media Presentation

Discuss: *Queer Africa*

DUE: Response Paper Option D: Queer Space Field Observation

Read prior to class: K. Sello Duiker, "Chapter Thirteen"
Dolar Vasani, "All Covered Up"
three other stories of your choice from *Queer Africa*

Thursday, November 22nd

THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS

WEEK 14

Tuesday, November 27th: SPACES II – Queer in the City

Presentation: Team 11 Media Presentation

Mini Lecture: In the City

Discuss: Weston

Read prior to class: Kath Weston, "Get Thee to a Big City"

Thursday, November 29th: SPACES III – Queer in the Countryside

Watch: *Small Town Gay Bar* [60 minutes]

Read prior to class: Mary L. Gray, "From Walmart to Websites"

WEEK 15

Thursday, December 4th: SPACES IV – Queer in the Suburbs

Discuss: Mini Exam 3

Mini Lecture: In the Suburbs

Discuss: Retzloff

Read prior to class: Tim Retzloff, "The Association of (Gay) Suburban People"

Thursday, December 6th: Wrap Up

Showcase: Individual Research Papers

DUE: Research Paper

FINALS WEEK

Tuesday, December 11th

MINI EXAM 3

7:45 – 9:45 a.m.